

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A bar code reader having an arrangement to communicate with a host apparatus in a POS system, comprising:
 - a read unit that reads a bar code attached to an article, and
 - 5 outputs bar code information corresponding to the read bar code;
 - a term information acquisition unit that acquires term information included in the bar code information;
 - a term expiration check unit that checks whether the term of the article has expired based on the term information; and
 - 10 a notification unit that notifies that the term of the article has expired upon determination by the term expiration check unit that the term of the article has expired.
2. The bar code reader according to claim 1, further comprising a
15 timer unit that keeps record of present date, wherein the term expiration check unit checks whether the term of the article has expired based on a comparison of the present date with the term information, wherein the term information is set by giving consideration to time error.
- 20 3. The bar code reader according to claim 1, further comprising a transmission unit that transmits the bar code information to the host apparatus upon determination by the term expiration check unit that the term of the article has expired.

4. The bar code reader according to claim 2, further comprising a date setting unit that sets a date of the timer unit using a date setting bar code.

5 5. A bar code read control method applied to a bar code reader having an arrangement to communicate with a host apparatus in a POS system, the method comprising:

reading a bar code attached to an article, and outputting bar code information corresponding to the read bar code;

10 acquiring term information included in the bar code information;

checking whether a term of the article has expired based on the term information; and

notifying that the term of the article has expired upon determination that the term of the article has expired.

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6. The method according to claim 5, further comprising acquiring present date from a timer unit, wherein

the checking includes checking whether the term of the article has expired based on a comparison of the present date with the term

20 information, wherein the term information is set by giving consideration to time error.

7. The method according to claim 5, further comprising transmitting the bar code information to the host apparatus upon determination that
25 the term of the article has expired.

8. The method according to claim 6, further comprising setting the present date in the timer unit using a date setting bar code.